

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently amended) A method for enhancing somatic recombination ~~characterized by~~ comprising promoting the homologous recombination of somatic cells in which DNA homologous recombination at a genetic locus is occurring by relaxing the chromatin structure of chromosomes in said somatic cells.

2. (Currently amended) An antibody production method ~~characterized in that,~~ comprising enhancing DNA homologous recombination at an antibody locus when producing antibodies from immunocytes in which DNA homologous recombination is occurring at ~~an~~ the antibody locus, ~~DNA homologous recombination is enhanced at the antibody locus~~ by relaxing the chromatin structure of chromosomes in said immunocytes, and thereby obtaining diverse antibodies ~~are obtained~~.

3. (Currently amended) The method described in Claims 1 ~~or 2~~, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the relaxation of the chromatin structure of chromosomes is induced by ~~treating cells by~~ putting cells ~~them~~ into contact with histone deacetylase inhibitor.

4. (Currently amended) The method described in Claim 3, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the inhibitor is trichostatin A.

5. (Currently amended) The method described in Claim 4, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the treatment concentration of trichostatin A is from approximately 0.5 ng/ml to approximately 5.0 ng/ml, and the contact treatment time is from approximately 2 weeks to approximately 6 weeks.

6. (Currently amended) The methods described in Claims 1 ~~through 5~~ ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the cells are DT40 culture cells.

7. (Currently amended) Immunocytes for which somatic homologous recombination has been promoted at a genetic locus by the method described in ~~one of the claims among~~ Claim 1; ~~3, 4, 5, or 6.~~

8. (Currently amended) Diverse antibodies produced by the method described in ~~one of the claims among the~~ Claims 2 ~~through 6.~~

9. (Original) The antibodies described in Claim 8, wherein the produced antibody is IgM.

10. (Currently amended) A medicinal agent, ~~being a medicinal agent~~ for the promotion of somatic homologous recombination at a genetic locus, and comprising a histone deacetylase inhibitor.

11. (Original) The medicinal agent described in Claim 10, wherein the inhibitor is trichostatin A.

12. (New) The method described in Claim 2, wherein the relaxation of the chromatin structure of chromosomes is induced by putting cells into contact with histone deacetylase inhibitor.

13. (New) The method described in Claim 12, wherein the inhibitor is trichostatin A.

14. (New) The method described in Claim 13, wherein the treatment concentration of trichostatin A is from approximately 0.5 ng/ml to approximately 5.0 ng/ml, and the contact treatment time is from approximately 2 weeks to approximately 6 weeks.

15. (New) The methods described in Claim 2 wherein the cells are DT40 culture cells.